REMARKS

Applicants submit this Amendment in response to the final Office Action dated May 6, 2011. Reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein is respectfully requested, based upon the Request for Continued Examination filed concurrently herewith.

Claims 1-9 are pending in this case; claim 1 is the only independent claim. In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected on the basis of prior art, and claims 2-9 were rejected for indefiniteness; the Examiner indicated, however, that claims 2-9 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and so as to overcome the indefiniteness rejections. A grammatical objection to the wording in claim 1 was also raised.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowability as to dependent claims 2-9, but applicants believe that, based upon the amendments made hereinabove, independent claim 1 is allowable as well, and applicants will explain the basis for this belief hereinbelow.

Turning first to the statutory claim rejections based upon indefiniteness under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as enumerated in paragraphs 11-12 of the Office

Action, applicants contend that each of these rejections either has now been overcome by virtue of the amendments made hereinabove.

Turning next to the patentability of the claims in light of the prior art, claim 1 was rejected in paragraphs 13-18 of the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as "obvious" over Langer. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, however, and contend that independent claim 1, as presently amended, is patentable over Langer, for the reasons set forth in applicants' communication filed on February 22, 2011, and for the additional reasons set forth below.

It bears repeating that the presently claimed invention provides a system capable of acquiring data relating to the shape and the surface color of the object to be reproduced. The information is acquired as a series of cartesian coordinates with associated color data, and is made available in a data format that can be used by a printer capable of reproducing in shape and color a series of profiles of the surface of the object. The implementation in the form of a linear light beam whose striking line on the object's surface is read by a photo camera or similar device provides an adequate and structurally simple way to achieve this goal.

Applicants have amended claim 1 for better understanding, and also to specify that the printing is accomplished in accordance with the 3Dc data; these data contain

the color information corresponding to the object outline. In addition, applicants' have amended claim 1 to indicate that acquisition of information about the color of the surface of the object is required. Thus, it is now clear that claim 1 uses the acquired date about the color of the surface of the object in the printing step. Support for the wording added in claim 1 may be found in paragraph [0006] of the specification with regard to the explanation of the characteristics of the numerical matrices, paragraph [0025] with regard to the acquisition of the color information, and paragraph [0028] with regard to the transfer of the color outline. Applicants have also corrected the grammatical error in claim 1 that was noted by the Examiner.

Thus, applicants' invention, as presently claimed in claim 1, is distinguished from the teachings of Langer in that (1) color information is acquired when the object is scanned and that information is processed so as to be available to the printing module, and (2) the printing of the object outline is performed using that color information, since the 3Dc matrix contains point-by-point information about the color of the object. The amendments made by applicants in claim 1 hereinabove are intended to clarify this characteristic. Applicants contend that, with this clarification, claim 1 is not obvious over Langer for the reasons set forth in applicants' response to the prior Office Action, which arguments applicants' sincerely believe were not considered by the Examiner, or if they were, warrant reconsideration now in light of applicants' amendments.

Applicants believe that no additional filing fees are required by virtue of the claim amendments made hereinabove. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-1730. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicants have responded herein to all of the points raised by the Examiner in the Office Action, and applicants have amended the claims in an earnest effort to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, further favorable action in connection with this patent application is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if it will advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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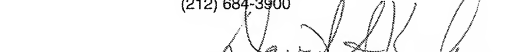
By: 
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